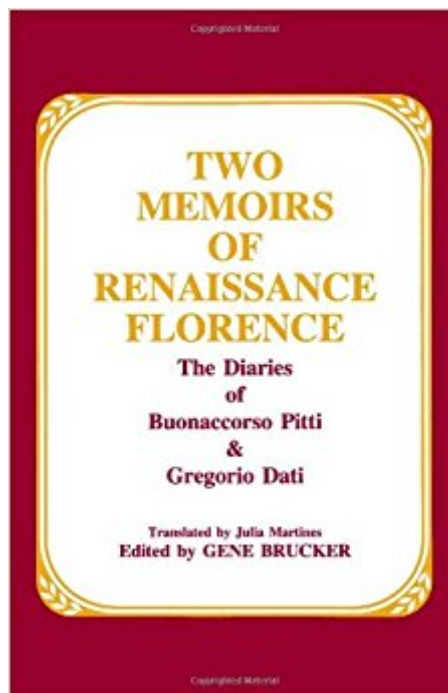




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Two Memoirs Of Renaissance Florence: The Diaries Of Buonaccorso Pitti And Gregorio Dati



Synopsis

One of the most useful books dealing with Italian social history! This unique volume offers readers a glimpse into the private lives of two Florentine businessmen during the late fourteenth century. A translated, abridged version of the personal chronicles of Buonaccorso Pitti and Gregorio Dati forms the body of this collection; the editor's useful introduction ("Florentine Diaries and Diarists") and footnotes provide relevant background information and textual explanations. These two men, whose lifetimes spanned nearly identical periods, were witnesses to one of the most creative half-centuries in Florentine history. As representatives of Florence's governing class, their memoirs (a common literary form in Renaissance Florence) provide important insights into characteristic features of Florentine business activity and political experience.

Book Information

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i got this book at a great price and in very good condition. it was like new and had no tears or writing in it

Great Quality!

This was assigned to a history class on Renaissance Florence at a state university some years ago. It was not a memorable book, but one of those obscure books that historians get excited about, the editor having unearthed these two virtually unknown works. It is an abridgment of *Cronica di Buonaccorso Pitti con annotazioni* ristampata da Alberto Bacchi Lega (1905), though it had been published earlier in 1720, in an incomplete form. It also has an abridgment of *Il libro segreto di Gregorio Dati* (1865), but that is very short indeed. Pitti's life was very exciting, a gambler, a soldier of fortune, and international merchant of noble birth. He wrote in sometimes jesting tone of a rogue, and I cannot help but be reminded of the works of Alexandre Dumas pere as he was the kind of character that was colorful and daring. But there was much about business in Florence as well. Lawsuits over property, inheritance, political battles, and marriages. A full life. Gregorio Dati's life was that of a petite bourgeoisie in Florence. Also a merchant, he was unsuccessful for most of his life and his short diary is depressing. He had over twenty children and nearly all of them died, most very young. He had four wives and they all died. He traveled little, and at one occasion he was robbed by pirates. He was involved in lawsuits, he was often in debt due to untrustworthy partners. Yet he was proud of the political positions he received late in life. He was appointed to various political positions that showed he was esteemed by his peers. And yet he was of humble birth. He was intensely pious, interjecting religious phrases at all places in his diary, he had accepted and trusted the will of God whenever he encountered a loss. Some would call him a fatalist, others a pious man worthy of Job. The question the historians must ask: was his life typical of the times? Probably yes, but he could have had a worse life back then.

If readers find Pitti's memoir rambling and not very Florentine in its focus, they should turn instead to the revealing record book of Gregorio Dati, a Florentine merchant with multiple business ventures, wives, children, political offices, encounters with the plague, religious musings. An amazing and very important primary source for early 15th century Italian life. Try counting the wives, children and funerals.

Very interesting book that provides a small clue to how things were in medieval times. An excellent companion to other history books of the era

The Buonaccorso Pitti diary gives a remarkable view into the day-to-day life of Tuscan nobility. It is even more amazing when one considers the subsequent history of his descendants, the house of

Buonaccorsi di Pistoia.

I had to read this book for a college history class. I was impressed that these ancient diaries had been preserved and had been brought into the printing world. I was not impressed with the content. Pitti's diary did not tell me anything about Florence. He traveled too much because of his affinity with the French. He seemed to me like a conservative, wealthy extremist who wrote the diary for his own self indulgence. My understanding of Renaissance Florence is no sharper than before this book because the life of this man could not have been indicative of the rest of the population of Florence.

Fast delivery and book in great condition! This is a great book to read it gives great insight to the people of the time period.

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